

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 276713

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJECT: US-GOR EXCHANGES AGREEMENT:HOUSING

REF: A) BUCHAREST 5711; B) BUCHAREST 5714

MOSCOW FOR RICHMOND

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES AMBASSADOR'S SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE ROMANIAN DECREE DENYING EXCHANGEES IN ROMANIA ACCESS TO PRIVATE HOUSING. WE REGARD THIS FIAT ALL THE MORE SERIOUSLY AS IT WAS ISSUED WHILE WE WERE NEGOTIATING A NEW EXCHANGES AGREEMENT IN GOOD FAITH ON
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THE ASSUMPTION THAT ACCESS TO PRIVATE HOUSING, A FUNDAMENTAL

NEED FOR OUR GRANTEES (ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH FAMILIES), WOULD REMAIN AS IT HAS BEEN SINCE AT LEAST 1972. SHOULD GOR REQUIRE ANY OF OUR GRANTEES TO VACATE THE QUARTERS THEY NOW OCCUPY, WE WOULD REGARD THAT AS A VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT OF OUR EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND WOULD HAVE THEN TO CONSIDER WHETHER WE COULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM AS IT NOW EXISTS. YOU SHOULD SO INFORM THE GOR.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT WE BELIEVE THIS GOR FIAT (AND ITS TIMING) MOST INAPPROPRIATE AT A POINT WHEN BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE SEEKING WAYS TO EXPAND OUR RELATIONS ON A BROAD FRONT.

3. YOU ARE ALSO AUTHORIZED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOR TO STRESS FOLLOWING POINTS:

1) OUR GREAT CONCERN FOR PRESENT PARTICIPANTS, PER PARA 1 ABOVE;

2) DIFFICULTY WE MAY ENCOUNTER IN FINDING QUALIFIED AMERICANS WILLING TO ACCEPT HOTEL OR DORMITORY ACCOMMODATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH ACCOMPANYING FAMILIES, WITH CONSEQUENT ADVERSE AFFECT ON PROGRAM AS A WHOLE;

3) INABILITY OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS TO BEAR ANY RPT ANY INCREASED COSTS WHICH MIGHT ENSUE FRM FROM NEW DECREE.

4. EVEN IF, AS WE HOPE AND EXPECT, OUR PRESENT GRANTEES ARE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO OCCUPY THEIR HOUSING UNTIL COMPLETION OF THEIR PROGRAMS, QUESTION OF COURSE REMAINS OF HOUSING FOR FUTURE GRANTEES. WE RECOGNIZE PROBABLE IRREVERSIBLE NATURE OF ROMANIAN DECREE AND AGREE WITH

AMBASSADOR THAT IT IS IN OUR INTEREST, BECAUSE OF THE FAVORABLE ASPECTS RELATING TO OTHER PROGRAMS INVOLVED, TO HAVE THE IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS OF THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT GO INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1, 1975. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SEEK SPECIFIC GUARANTEES RE THE QUALITY OF HOUSING TO BE PROVIDED OUR GRANTEES. THUS, CONFIDENTIAL

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IN ADDITION TO THE FORMULA SUGGESTED PARA 5 REF B., I.E., A GENERAL STATEMENT IN ART. 1.C.6 PROVIDING FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF THE HOUSING STIPEND PLUS AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES, YOU SHOULD ALSO SEEK GUARANTEES FOR ALL US EXCHANGEES OF HOUSING CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE TO WHICH THE ROMANIANS ARE ALREADY COMMITTED UNDER THE IREX MEMORANDUM OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AUGUST 28, 1974, ART. IV. 3.A. THESE PROVIDE A MINIMUM TO WHICH WE SHOULD HOLD THE

ROMANIANS. WE WOULD NOT WISH AT TIME OF NEXT ANNUAL REVIEW TO FIND OURSELVES IN THE UNHAPPY SITUATION OF HAVING TO CUT BACK THE PROGRAM FOR 1976 BECAUSE OF AN UNFORTUNATE SITUATION EXISTING AT THAT TIME

5. CITED MEMORANDUM READS IN PART: "THE RECEIVING SIDE WILL BEAR THE COST OF TUITION AND FEES... AND WILL PROVIDE FREE HOUSING (INCLUDING CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY, HEATING, LOCAL TELEPHONES AND FURNITURE) FOR THE PARTICIPANTS IT RECEIVES, AS FOLLOWS:

1) FOR A SINGLE PERSON, ONE ROOM WITH PRIVATE KITCHEN AND BATHROOM, IF PARTICIPANT SO DESIRES;

2) FOR A HUSBAND AND WIFE, WITHOUT ACCOMPANYING CHILDREN, TWO ROOM APARTMENT WITH PRIVATE KITCHEN AND BATHROOM;

3) FOR HUSBAND AND WIFE WITH ONE OR MORE CHILDREN, THREE-ROOM APARTMENT WITH PRIVATE KITCHEN AND BATHROOM ..."

6. SUGGEST EMBASSY ALSO REVIEW OTHER HOUSING CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN IREX MEMORANDUM OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR GENERAL APPLICABILITY.

7. AS REQUESTED (REF B), WE HAVE QUERIED THE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

WITH ROMANIA AND FIND GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH AND SUPPORT FOR STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO GOR. KISSINGER

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